

MINUTES

LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE OF NVTC

Meeting April 4, 2013

Members Present: Peter Black, Valerie Burton, Judy Regner, Susan Haenisch, Helen Adamchak, Tony Grimm, Rev. Gerald Vaiden, Tracy Self

Absent: Joe Caturano, Ron Kerns

Also Present: Tim Simmons, Advocate

The Committee met in the Executive Conference Room of Building One at the Northern Virginia Training Center. Members began gathering shortly before 10:00 AM, and at 10:03 AM, Chair, Peter Black called the meeting to order and opened the public comment period. Peter introduced a change to the agenda since there were no restrictive behavior plans to be discussed. The Committee voted to accept the agenda change with the elimination of the behavior plans. A review of minutes indicated the need to correct the spelling of two names, Judy Regner and Susan Haenicsh. With these changes, the minutes were approved by the Committee. Additionally, Peter was told that the planned picture of the Committee would be postponed until next month when, hopefully, more members would be available. This change was also voted upon and approved.

In the absence of public participation, at 10:13 AM, Peter closed the public comment period and asked Committee members for a motion to move into executive session, pursuant to Virginia Code section 2.2-3 711A to hear Critical Incidents and Abuse/Neglect Allegations. Debra Vought arrived and proceeded to give the Critical Incidents Report and her responses to questions from the Committee pertaining to her March report. Advocate, Tim Simmons noted no incidents of abuse or neglect.

At 10:45 PM, the Committee moved and voted to exit executive session, each member certifying that they “heard, discussed or considered only public matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened.”

Once out of executive session, Advocate Tim Simmons gave a presentation to the group on the Virginia FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) as it pertains to provisions for the State Human Rights Committee. As presented by Tim in his Power Point, the essence of FOIA is to ensure public access to records in the custody of public offices and “free entry” for the public to meetings where public business is conducted.

Following Tim’s presentation at 11:27, Director Mark Diorio joined the Committee to give an update on discharges from the Center. From 7/1/12 through the end of March

2013, there have been 7 discharges. Dr. Diorio expects 4 more discharges in April. The letter from the Department to families with projected individual dates of discharge, originally expected to be sent in February, should be sent soon. There is expectation that 4 to 8 residents will be discharged each month until March 2015. Dr. Diorio hopes that no resident will be discharged to another Training Center.

Dale Woods has been named as Department coordinator for RCSC (Regional Community Support Clinic) services statewide. None of the RCSCs will remain on Training Center grounds. Dr. Diorio went on to describe the Virginia START (Systematic Therapeutic Assessment and Respite Treatment) program which is now opening services in each of the five regions of the state. The program is designed by the Easter Seals of North Carolina. The program in this region is located in Woodbridge and is a five bedroom home with staff prepared to offer services to people with dual diagnoses in need of emergency and/or planned respite care.

At present major barriers to overall services in the community are (1) the definition, development, and use of “exceptional rates” for waivers to cover needs until the Medicaid revisal is determined and (2) placement capacity in the community.

Peter ended the meeting with confirmation that the July meeting will occur on July 11, 2013, and there will be no meeting in August.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Self, Recording Secretary

Peter Black, Chairman